

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OES-03 /058 W

----- 111388

R 190919Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2634

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 7437

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PL

SUBJECT: NEW MINISTER OF SCIENCE, HIGHER EDUCATION AND
TECHNOLOGY

1. SUMMAR: EXPLAINING THAT THE RISING DEMANDS IN SCIENCE,
HIGHER EDUCATION, AND TECHNOLOGY DICTATED THE UNDESIRABILITY
OF PLACING A DOUBLE BURDEN IN THIS AREA UPON ONE MAN, PREMIER
JAROSZEWCZ ANNOUNCED ON DECEMBER 17 THAT HE WAS NAMING
SYLWESTER KALISKI TO REPLACE JAN KACZMAREK AS MINISTER OF
SCIENCE, HIGHER EDUCATION, AND TECHNOLOGY. JAROSZEWCZ SAID
THAT KACZMAREK WOULD RETAIN HIS POSITION AS SCIENTIFIC
SECRETARY OF THE POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (PAN). ALTHOUGH
A CAREER MILITARY OFFICER SINCE 1950 AND THE COMMANDANT OF
THE MILITARY TECHNICAL ACADEMY SINCE 1967, KALISKI IS THOUGHT
OF IN THE FIRST INSTANCE HERE AS ONE OF POLAND'S MOST ACCO-
PLISHED AND RESPECTED RESEARCH SCIENTISTS. END SUMMAR.

2. KACZMAREK'S REMOVAL FROM HIS MINISTERIAL JOB FOLLOWS THE
CURRENT TREND OF MOVING AWAY FROM A SITUATION IN WHICH SEVERAL
KEY MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT HAD WORN TWO HATS. IN MAKING
THE ANNOUNCEMENT, JAROSZEWCZ WAS LAVISH IN HIS PRAISE OF
KACZMAREK AND TOOK PAINS TO POINT OUT THAT NOT ONLY WOULD
KACZMAREK REMAIN IN HIS OTHER POSITION AS SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY
OF PAN, BUT THAT HE WOULD BE PROPOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR
ANOTHER TERM IN THAT OFFICE ALONG WITH THE NEW SLATE OF PAN
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OFFICIALS WHO WILL TAKE OFFICE ON JANUARY 1, 1975.

3. KALISKI'S OFFICIAL BIOGRAPHY STATES THAT HE WAS BORN IN TORUN ON DECEMBER 19, 1925, THE SON OF A NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER IN THE POLISH ARMY. THIS MAY HELP TO EXPLAIN WHY HE OPTED FOR A MILITARY CAREER UPON GRADUATING FROM GDANSK POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE IN 1949 WITH A DEGREE IN CIVIL ENGINEERING. PERHAPS THE ARMY OFFERED HIM AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE HIS SCIENTIFIC EDUCATION AND RESEARCH. IN ANY CASE, HIS ENTIRE MILITARY CAREER HAS BEEN SPENT AS A RESEARCH SCIENTIST AND DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH PROJECTS. ALONG THE WAY HE ALSO HAS TAUGHT AT WARSAW POLYTECHNICAL INSTITUTE AND HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES SINCE 1961. HE IS SAID TO BE A BRILLIANT AND DILIGENT SCIENTIST AND ONE OF POLAND'S MOST CAPABLE APPLIED MATHEMATICIANS. HIS MAJOR SCIENTIFIC INTEREST IS SAID TO BE IN ELASTICITY. RECENTLY HE HAS ATTRACTED ATTENTION AS ONE OF POLAND'S FOREMOST LASER SPECIALISTS. UNDER HIS DIRECTION THE MILITARY TECHNICAL ACADEMY HAS COOPERATED CLOSELY WITH SILESIAN-BASED INDUSTRY, INCLUDING RESEARCH IN APPLIED MECHANICS FOR THE COAL-MINING INDUSTRY.

4. KALISKI TOOK HIS PH.D. IN 1954 AND WROTE HIS HABILITATION IN 1956. HE WAS NAMED A FULL PROFESSOR AND A CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF PAN IN 1961. IN 1970 HE BECAME A FULL MEMBER OF PAN AS WELL AS A MEMBER OF THE PAN PRESIDUM. HE IS A DEPUTY TO THE SEJM AND CHAIRMAN OF THE SEJM COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNICAL PROGRESS. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE POLISH UNITED WORKERS PARTY. MARRIED, WITH THREE CHILDREN, HE IS SAID TO SPEAK RUSSIAN, POOR ENGLISH, GERMAN, AND SOME FRENCH. IN THE MILITARY, HE ROSE TO THE PERSONAL RANK OF GENERAL OF DIVISION. DAVIES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974WARSAW07437
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740369-0349
From: WARSAW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741221/aaaaarke.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW MINISTER OF SCIENCE, HIGHER EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY
TAGS: PGOV, PL, (KALISKI, SYLWESTER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005